



## STATEMENT ON COVID-19 FINAL GRADING CHOICES

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

We want to thank you, our student community, for your support and unprecedented advocacy, alongside thousands of other students who've voiced their concerns and supported a change that would maximize flexibility for students in their final grading choices during this crisis. Students mobilized together like never before, with over 5,000 signatures in support of change ([www.uwsa.ca/petition](http://www.uwsa.ca/petition)). 150 signatures in 10 minutes. 2,000 signatures in 2 hours. 3,000 signatures in 3 hours. These are not just statistics, but a reflection that, even in times of uncertainty, our student community will not hesitate to stand up for each other.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, we called for the University to implement a Pass/Fail system, extended Voluntary Withdrawal deadline, and a grade freeze/exam opt-out. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the University confirmed 2/3 of these options: Pass/Non-Pass and an extended voluntary withdrawal deadline. After the University's announcement, we immediately heard students' frustrations regarding the lack of a grade freeze/exam opt-out option. This culminated into the petition that now stands at over 5,000 signatures.

The University has **held their previous position that the current 3 grading choices are sufficient**: Pass/Non-Pass, keeping grades as normal, and an extended Voluntary Withdrawal deadline. Their view is that these choices already give considerable flexibility compared to what's being offered at other institutions, they've received the full consultation and support of the Deans, and in valuing academic freedom they are leaving it to instructors to choose whether or not a grade freeze should be an option.



While this is extremely disappointing for all of us, the UWSA is ready to support students during this difficult time. On Friday evening, the UWSA President spoke with the University President. We've been assured that the grade appeal process will be as accessible and compassionate as possible for students undergoing the crisis. We will be consulting with the University in the weeks ahead to ensure what is normally a rigorous process is made more accommodating for students.

We are also prepared to write to your professor directly with a request on students' behalf to consider adopting the grade freeze. Since we began the petition last Wednesday, we have seen numerous instructors offer this option to their students. We encourage you to forward the petition to your instructor, where this option is feasible for your course, as they may or may not choose to act on that feedback.

**If you have any concerns or need further support throughout your final assessments, grade appeals, or otherwise, please reach out to our Vice President Student Advocacy, Arop Plaek Deng ([vpsauwsa@uwindsor.ca](mailto:vpsauwsa@uwindsor.ca)).**

On another note, we would like to take a moment to applaud the efforts of the faculty and staff who, despite the circumstances, have risen to the occasion and gone above and beyond for students. Thank you for taking the time away from your families, and holding it together, to preserve our education. You are seen, and you are appreciated.

Stay positive, stay safe, and know we'll get through this together.

In solidarity,  
**Jeremiah Bowers**  
President

*The University of Windsor Students' Alliance (UWSA) is the student union representing the full-time undergraduate students at the University of Windsor.*

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